Filling up vacancies of judges

†994. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the report of the Chief Justice of India, according to which 26 per cent seats in the High Courts are lying vacant;

(b) what are the reasons for these seats lying vacant for a long time; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgement of October 6, 1993 read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the process of initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges of a High Court lies with the Chief Justice of that High Court. The Government has been requesting the Chief Justices of the High Courts, from time to time, to initiate proposals for filling up of the present and vacancies anticipated during the next six months.

Status of Gram Nyayalayas Bill, 2007

995. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice has submitted its report on Gram Nyayalayas Bill, 2007;

(b) if so, whether common man would receive fair treatment and legal aid from unencumbered corruption;

(c) whether Government proposes to fix any definite time-limit for enforcement of above mentioned Act; and

(d) if so, what would be the ratio of expenditure between the Centre and State, since the Gujarat Government has reportedly expressed inability to meet the estimated expenditure of Rs. 39 crore per annum in this regard and if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Setting up of Gram Nyayalaya would bring to the people of rural areas speedy, affordable and substantial justice.

(c) The State Governments will be consulted before bringing into force the provisions of this enactment.

(d) The Central Government will meet the entire non-recurring expenditure and the recurring expenditure for first three years will be shared between the Central and State Governments following which, it will be met by the concerned State Governments.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.